

**COUNTY OF HENRICO, VIRGINIA
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SPECIAL MEETING
September 25, 2012**

The Henrico County Board of Supervisors convened a special meeting on Tuesday, September 25, 2012, at 5:00 p.m., in the County Manager's Conference Room, Administration Building, Henrico County Government Center, Parham and Hungary Spring Roads, Henrico, Virginia.

Members of the Board Present:

Richard W. Glover, Chairman, Brookland District
David A. Kaechele, Vice Chairman, Three Chopt District
Tyrone E. Nelson, Varina District
Patricia S. O'Bannon, Tuckahoe District
Frank J. Thornton, Fairfield District

Other Officials Present:

John A. Vithoukias, Acting County Manager
Joseph P. Rapisarda, Jr., County Attorney
Barry R. Lawrence, CMC, Assistant to the County Manager/Clerk to the Board
Tanya B. Harding, Deputy Clerk to the Board/Administrative Assistant
Jane D. Crawley, Deputy County Manager for Community Services
Wilbert J. Childress, Technology Support Specialist, Manager's Office
Timothy A. Foster, P.E., Deputy County Manager for Community Operations
Randall R. Silber, Deputy County Manager for Community Development
Tamara McKinney, Director of Public Relations & Media Services
Ralph J. Emerson, Jr., Director of Planning
Douglas A. Middleton, Chief of Police

Mr. Glover called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

Mr. Vithoukias briefly reviewed the two items on the agenda. With the Board's concurrence, the items were presented in reverse order from how they were listed on the agenda.

Ordinance Amendment Regarding Taxicab Rates for Trips Originating at Richmond International Airport

Mr. Vithoukias noted that this item was being brought forward at the request of the Capital Region Airport Commission (CRAC). He recognized Mr. Rapisarda and acknowledged the presence of Jon Mathiasen, Executive Director of CRAC. Mr. Rapisarda asked Mr. Lawrence to distribute a blackline copy of the proposed ordinance amendment, which had been placed on the Board's 7:00 p.m. regular meeting for introduction to set a public hearing for October 23. Mr. Rapisarda advised the Board there has been no increase in the rate for trips originating at

Richmond International Airport (RIC) since October 2007. CRAC approved a resolution on August 28 asking its member jurisdictions to approve the proposed rate increase. The amendment would allow taxicab companies to charge passengers an additional \$2.00 for trips originating at RIC to help taxicab companies offset the cost of upgrades to their vehicles and uniforms, which will enhance the safety and appearance of the vehicles servicing passengers at RIC. The upgrades are required by new contracts that CRAC has entered into with taxicab companies for walk-up service at RIC.

Mr. Mathiasen elaborated on how the additional \$2.00 charge would allow CRAC to improve ground transportation at the airport. He noted that 41 new taxicabs are serving the airport, five of which are accessible to the disabled and all of which can accept credit cards. All drivers must be able to speak English as a first language. Mr. Mathiasen distributed a brochure that included a photograph depicting an example of the new airport taxis and a spreadsheet offering a minimum standards comparison of vehicles, operators/drivers, and customer service in the old RIC program, the new RIC program, and in the four jurisdictions represented on CRAC. He reviewed CRAC's competitive bid process that selected the three taxicab companies that serve RIC. Mr. Mathiasen concluded his presentation by asking that the Board consider adoption of the ordinance proposed by RIC and which he will also be discussing with the Richmond City Council and Boards of Supervisors in Chesterfield and Hanover Counties. He thanked Mr. Rapisarda for providing assistance in quickly moving the ordinance forward. Mr. Rapisarda advised the Board that if the introduction of the ordinance is approved, there will be a public hearing on the ordinance at the Board's October 23 meeting.

Following his presentation, Mr. Mathiasen responded to questions from the Board regarding the factors contributing to the proposed fare increase, how the ordinance will impact RIC's existing contracts with taxicab providers, recent changes in the dress code for taxicab operators serving RIC, the number of trips per day made by taxicabs serving RIC, and the ethnicity of RIC's taxicab drivers. Mr. Kaechele, who serves on CRAC along with Mrs. O'Bannon, remarked that taxicab service at RIA has improved dramatically and that the current providers are very professional.

Private Dog Parks

Mr. Vithoukias introduced this item by pointing out that private dog parks are not permissible under the County's current ordinances and that the Board was not being asked to take action on this item at the 7:00 p.m. regular meeting. He noted that the Planning Department had been looking into the issue of private dog parks at the request of the Wyndham Foundation.

Mr. Vithoukias recognized Mr. Blankinship, Principal Planner, who narrated a slide presentation on the possibility of amending the County's zoning ordinance to allow privately owned dog parks. During his presentation, Mr. Blankinship reviewed the request from the Wyndham Foundation, a proposed site for a potential Wyndham Dog Park, conflicts between private dog parks and the current County ordinance, the purposes of private dog parks, neighborhood concerns, design guidelines, amenities, the layout of the County's existing public dog park at Dorey Park in eastern Henrico, and potential future public dog park sites. He concluded his presentation by identifying the two steps that would be necessary for the Board to allow the creation of privately owned dog

parks and the standards recommended by staff. The two steps would include amending the zoning ordinance to allow "privately owned dog park" by provisional use permit (PUP) in agricultural and residential zoning districts and amending the leash law to allow dogs to run free in privately owned dog parks. Mr. Blankinship reiterated that staff is not asking for any action by the Board at this time. Mr. Rapisarda clarified that the County does not technically have a leash law, so in addition to the zoning ordinance the Board should amend the "manning-at-large" law if and when it wishes to allow private dog parks. The current County "running-at-large" law requires that dogs be under the immediate control of the owner or custodian but not necessarily on a leash.

Following his presentation, Mr. Blankinship responded to a number of questions and comments from the Board pertaining to private dog parks such as their appropriate location, funding sources, regulation through the PUP process, and similarity to private kennels. Mrs. O'Bannon suggested that consideration be given to less restrictive setback requirements for private dog parks in R-5 and R-6 districts so that these types of parks can be offered as an amenity in apartment complexes should the Board move forward with a zoning ordinance amendment. She also questioned whether requiring a PUP would set the bar too high for smaller communities interesting in establishing a private dog park. Mr. Thornton stated that although he is not in opposition to dog parks he is concerned that the County has been spending considerable time researching this issue when there are more pressing issues affecting the human condition in the current economy. Mr. Kaechele pointed out that private dog parks would not involve public funds. Mr. Nelson questioned allowing dog parks in apartment complexes.

Mr. Vithoukas concluded the discussions by agreeing to report back to the Board on this matter within the next 60 days after the Planning Department has had opportunity to reflect on the Board's comments and receive additional input from the Wyndham Foundation. Mr. Glover concurred that the consensus of the Board is to discuss this matter again at an upcoming work session. He indicated that he may favor amending the zoning ordinance to allow privately owned dog parks by conditional use permit as an alternative to a PUP.

The Board recessed for dinner at 5:47 p.m. and reconvened at 6:09 p.m.

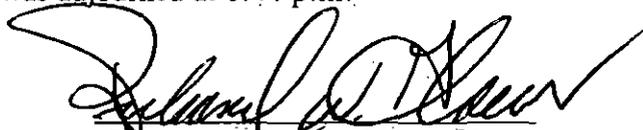
Mr. Vithoukas reviewed the agenda for the Board's 7:00 p.m. regular meeting. He and Mr. Emerson briefed the Board on the Richmond Batdefields Association's interest in placing a preservation easement on property owned by the organization along Yahley's Mill Road in the Varina District. The property includes four sites totaling 47 acres where a Civil War battle occurred. Mr. Vithoukas advised the Board that a representative of the organization, Ben Brockenbrough, had signed up to address the Board on this matter during the public comment period. Mr. Emerson noted that the proposed easement would conflict with the County's future plans to extend public sewer lines to this area of Varina. Mr. Foster responded to questions from Mrs. O'Bannon relating to these plans. Mr. Nelson remarked that he supported staff's position and that Mr. Brockenbrough had cancelled a private meeting with him to discuss the matter. Mr. Emerson commented on the historical significance of the property and along with Mr. Vithoukas responded to further questions from Mr. Glover and Mrs. O'Bannon.

The Board watched a brief video highlighting Cristol Klevinsky's two-week exchange visit to Henrico's sister locality in South Korea, Yangju City. Mr. Vithoukas noted that Ms. Klevinsky, who is an Administrative Assistant in the County Manager's Office, made an audiovisual presentation to the Mayor of Yangju City during her visit and was a good ambassador for the County. At the conclusion of the video, Mrs. Harding distributed gifts from Yangju City to each of the Board members while Mr. Vithoukas explained the significance of the gifts.

Mr. Vithoukas noted that the Vice President of the United States, Joe Biden, had visited Chesterfield County earlier in the day. He asked Chief Middleton to update the Board on the visit since Mr. Biden landed at and departed from RIA in Henrico County and the Division of Police helped provide security for him. Chief Middleton stated that 46 Henrico police officers were assigned to this detail and that Henrico is continuing to bill the presidential and vice-presidential campaigns of both major political parties for the security costs incurred by the County as a result of campaign visits. He responded to questions from Mrs. O'Bannon concerning the Division of Police's billing and collection procedures for recouping costs when providing special security services for political candidates.

In response to a question from Mrs. O'Bannon, Mr. Vithoukas explained the three major components of the budget amendment resolution that was listed on the 7:00 p.m. agenda as a public hearing item. He then recognized Brandon Hinton, Management and Budget Division Director, who reviewed the new amendment requests and responded to several questions from Mrs. O'Bannon pertaining to specific amendments included within the 36-page resolution.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:44 p.m.



Chairman, Board of Supervisors
Henrico County, Virginia